

Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE):

Programs to Strengthen Marriages and Families

OPTIONS FOR COLLECTING MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE STATISTICS

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) launched this project in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics and the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. The study analyzes options for improving the collection of marriage and divorce statistics at the federal, state, and local levels.

Currently, available marriage and divorce data, including data from states' vital registrars and national surveys, are insufficient to meet the needs of researchers, program planners, and policy makers. The project examines current and potential vital statistics and survey data collection methods, data quality and data infrastructure issues at the national, state and local levels, and assesses the needs of a variety of users of marriage and divorce data. This project provides a menu of options for decision makers regarding the collection and use of standardized, reliable, and informative data on marriage and divorce that includes estimates of the benefits and costs of each option.

CONTRACTOR: The Lewin Group; subcontractor: The Urban Institute

PROJECT PERIOD: September 2003 to September 2005

FUNDING: \$979,000